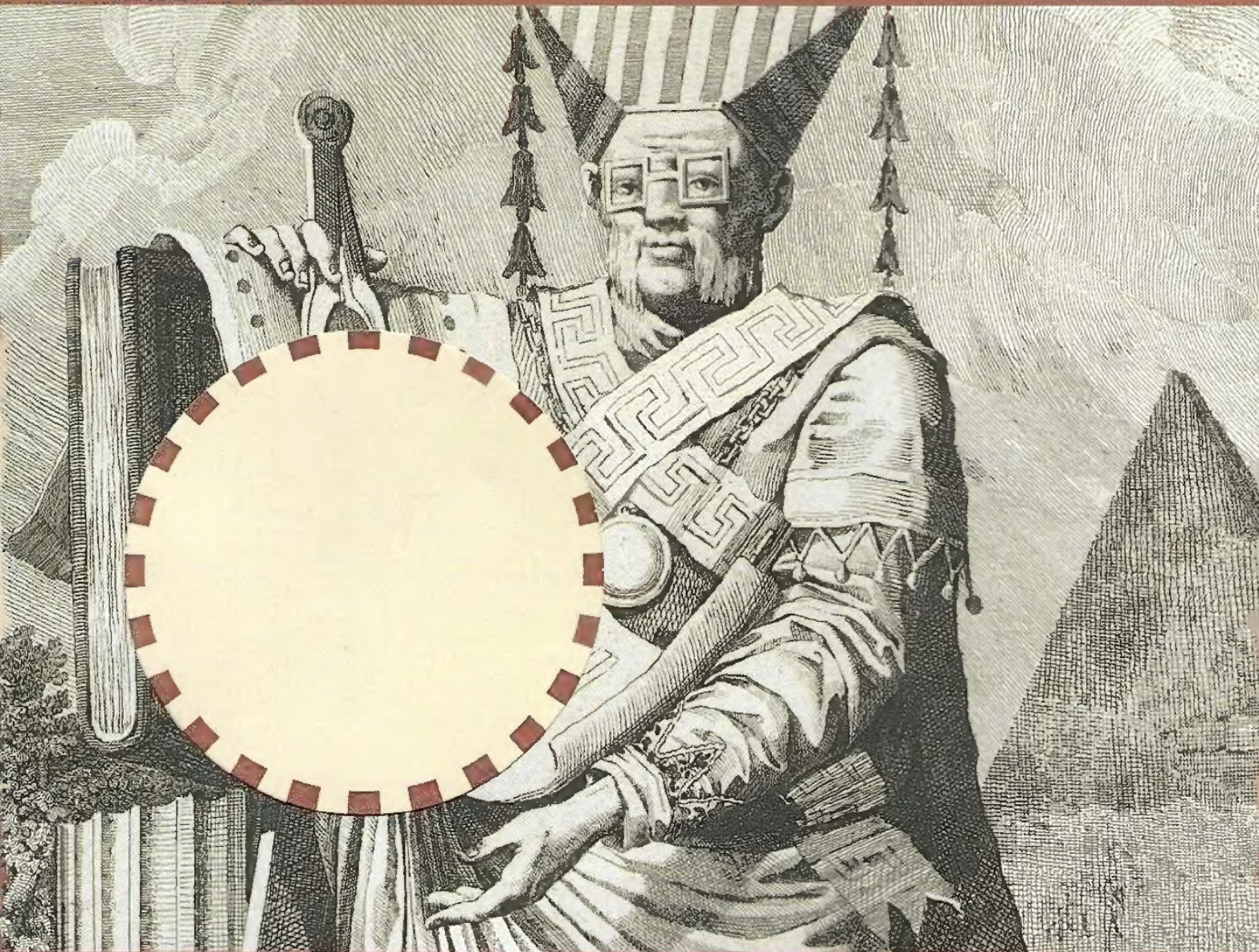


IMAGINATION

IN THE AGE OF REASON



FAMILY GUIDE

September 28, 2024–March 2, 2025

James and Hanna Barlett Prints and Drawings Galleries

What is your favorite way to use your imagination?

Maybe you like to pretend that you're a fearsome beast, visiting faraway places, or that you're someone else. Artists from hundreds of years ago also liked to use their imaginations! They applied the power of fantasy to create strange worlds, make illusions, and question what they saw around them every day. Explore the images in *Imagination in the Age of Reason* with this guide and use your own extraordinary imagination.

Stop by the round information desk in the Ames Family Atrium and ask for a pencil to do these activities with your group in the gallery!



Pumpkins Used as Dwellings to Be Secure against Wild Beasts, from Suite of the Most Notable Things Seen by John Wilkins Erudite English Bishop During His Famous Voyage from the Earth to the Moon, about 1769

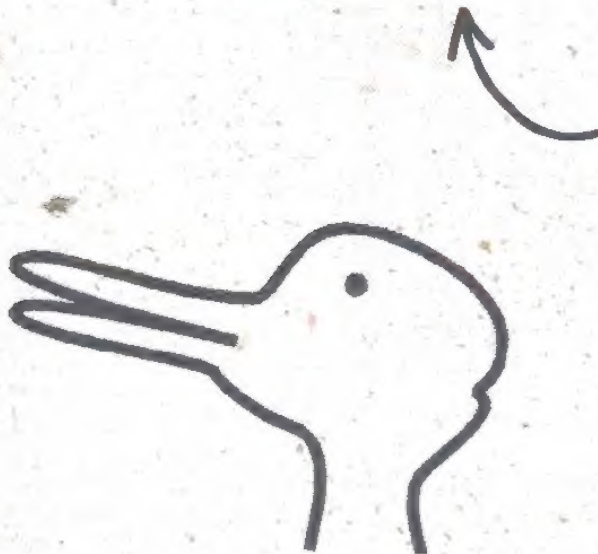
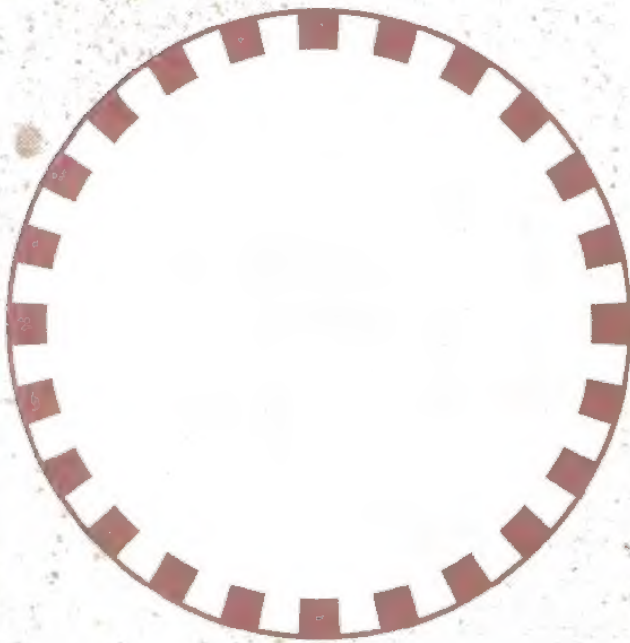
Much like today, people in the 1700s were captivated by space and imagined life on other planets. This illustration is part of a series of images showing a fictional trip to the moon. Here, the artist created structures made from pumpkins, where people on the moon would be safe from wandering creatures.



Pick a planet, or make up your own, and think of a short story about what life is like there. Act out your story with friends or family for even more fun!

Trompe l'Oeil Still Life, about 1754

While it might seem like the green curtain can move to cover the papers in this artwork, it is all drawn on one flat piece of paper! This technique is known as *trompe l'oeil*, which means "trick the eye." Because of the artist's use of shadow and light, he might have fooled you into thinking it was more than just one sheet of paper.



An optical illusion tricks us into seeing something differently than what might be there.

Take a look at this animal: is it a duck or a rabbit? Try to draw your own optical illusion in the circle above!

*Inventor of Greek Figures, from
Mascarade à la Grecque, 1771*

The artist who originally created this print depicted himself as if he were a Greek statue. Just like today, people hundreds of years ago were fascinated by civilizations of the past—especially ancient Greece! This figure wears an elaborate costume that includes a toga, or piece of draped cloth, and an interesting headdress.

What or whom would you like to dress up as?



L'Auteur des Figures à la Grecque



Use the mannequin
above to design your
own costume.



*Fountain with Two Tritons
Blowing Conch Shells, 1736*

Look closely at the two figures in the middle of the print. You may notice that they are each playing a conch shell that makes sounds like a horn. Many conchologists (a type of scientist) during the 1700s would often search for different kinds of seashells, study them, and draw what they saw in their travel journals. Their searches and recordings help scientists today determine historical weather patterns by observing the lines on the shells.

Go on your own search!
Can you find some key words
relating to the artwork in this
word-search puzzle?

Make sure to look
closely at the artwork to find
images of them there too.

V	N	A	T	U	R	E	M	C	F
S	W	N	R	O	C	K	S	N	B
L	I	N	W	H	M	O	I	E	T
S	P	W	H	F	Y	A	G	Z	R
H	I	R	Y	N	T	N	U	R	I
E	I	Z	V	N	I	U	E	P	T
L	P	B	U	W	Y	T	A	K	O
L	L	O	O	K	A	B	Q	C	N
S	F	L	L	W	W	S	Y	E	S
H	B	B	M	C	O	N	C	H	U

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fountain | <input type="checkbox"/> tritons | <input type="checkbox"/> blowing | <input type="checkbox"/> conch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shells | <input type="checkbox"/> nature | <input type="checkbox"/> water | <input type="checkbox"/> rocks |



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